Rescue Committee Meeting

4/11/2018

Town Office

Present:

David Cherry Rescue Committee Chair

Drew Hazelton Rescue Inc.

Ernie Friedli Committee Member

Sally Hoover Committee Member

Claudia Voight Rescue Committee Clerk

Leila Erhardt Committee Member

Dawn Bower Rescue Committee Co-Chair

JoJo Chlebogianni Committee Member

Meeting called to order at 10:05 by David Cherry

**Purpose of Meeting:**

* David reviewed the purpose of the meeting
  + Discuss all pro and con aspects of utilizing Rescue Inc. in efforts to determine if Rescue Inc. offers benefits over and above the Towns current system
    - What are the negative aspects
    - Costs involved and what is covered
    - Average response time
    - Type of equipment they provide
    - Service area
    - How hospital is selected
    - What/who is backup
    - Qualifications of professionals responding
    - Do they need to cover whole Town or can it be partial by “signup basis”

**Introduction of Chief of Rescue Inc.:**

* Drew Hazelton, Chief of Rescue Inc. was introduced to the Committee by David
* Drew Hazelton – Chief of Rescue Inc. from Newfane – gave his history of emergency services
* Rescue Inc. formed in 1966- non-profit – to provide EMS, no town had ability to create their own
* Towns served considered member towns
* 2005 approached by Grace Cottage to provide services
* Worked out of Grace Cottage until last year and relocate to new facility in West Townshend
* As non-profit 80% from direct medical billing, 20% donations rest grants
* 9 ambulances 6 paramedic ambulances
* 75 staff members, 28 are full time career staff and remainder are volunteers
* Trucks are staffed 24 hrs.
* 2 out of Brattleboro 1 out of Townshend office
* Response time is critical and one of the most important pro’s that Rescue Inc. offers over and above other surrounding town services
* Staffed according to time of day/year etc –
* Drew explained process for call differentials and how calls are dispatched ie: Londonderry rescue..etc.
* 2nd for our area is Stratton Rescue
* 1st responders provide assistant
* EMT’s drive vehicles
* Advanced EMTs are next level - each truck has Advanced Life Support on it
* If ambulances are out – additional personnel is called in from surrounding town support services
* Paramedic is always on duty
* David asked if ambulances are fully staffed with equipment – yes
* Brattleboro to Townshend takes 15 – 18 minutes
* Trucks have to be on the road within 2 minutes after the call for help
* Dave –question about technical abilities – also what they can do over and above the others
  + Tech team out of Townshend office – flood rescue, 2 boats out of Townshend, search and rescue, droan search by thermos imagining camera, jaws of life equipment,
* Drew explained process for call differentials and how calls are dispatched ie: Londonderry rescue..etc.
* 2nd for our area is Stratton Rescue
* Dave asked how many calls Rescue Inc has done in Windham – Drew explained process only if asked by Londonderry Rescue – last year, just hand full of calls.
* How is facility chosen ie: hospital – does what patient asks however depending on severity of case they go to closest facility
  + Drew shows map of transport distances to each hospital as example
* They provide regional programs for continued education such as pediatric life support and they partner with the heart association and other organizations
* If Windham joined Rescue Inc. they would put in place an active first response team for Windham
  + Possible that ambulance to cover Windham would be coming from Newbrook Fire station
* Dave asked reaction from towns who had been covered previously by other rescue – Jamaica was initially covered by Londonderry and no issues
* $$ Chesterfield NH they serve ½ town –
* Halifax they serve one road -7 houses
* Dave asked about the cost for the town
* Drew – fees are set by board – board decides if town is added and fees, they meet in August and rates set in October - $28.63 per capita – aprox $10,000 for Windham –
* Subscription program is additional, outlined on brochure handed out
* They receive federal funding in addition
* They don’t carry bad debt, they write off unpaid bills monthly –
* 80% of revenue comes from billing – operating budget is 3 ½ million a year
* If town divides – fee town pays would cover area serviced

Drew departed at 11 a.m.

David commented on discussion with Rick Wetzel in relationship to Rescue Inc.

* Rick is supportive of Rescue Inc. due to response time

**Jamaica report from Ernie:**

* Ernie – handed out report from Jamaica (attached) – discussed
* Ernie reviewed his observations and the conversation which is outlined in letter

**Townshend report from JoJo:**

* JoJo – spoke with Townshend – Townshend pays a little over $34,000 a year – have had no issues however they don’t use Londonderry Services

**Londonderry repot from Sally:**

* Sally talked with Londonderry and gave update – Peter Cobb who is the contact will come to meet with Committee – will set up another meeting in April to do so – Wednesday 18th or 25th to be confirmed at 10 am at Town Office

**Personal Comments:**

* Dave ran through issue with medical billing – there is no cap on what can be billed – if Medicare pays part then remainder can’t be billed – if no insurance then whole thing can be billed
* Ernie – commented that he is effected by all of this – due to personal experience when wife was having issue he was trying to find out if ambulance had even left yet and he could not get answer
* Ernie – what can we do as a town for those in town who cannot afford it – Sally – people won’t use the services they are too proud
* Dave discussed the town creating a foundation – JoJo mentioned WCO already in place which could be used to cover bills not covered.
* Dawn asked what opinion would be if we divided town – JoJo commented that town would go with Rescue Inc – residents will respond to bill they receive for membership
* Ernie – town has revolving fund from government that came from the state – CAC fund available

Next meeting scheduled for Wednesday April 25th at 10 a.m. at Town Office – Londonderry Rep. Peter Cobb will be attending

Meeting adjourned at 11:47 by David and 2nd by JoJo